In the context of the intensification of anti-smuggling efforts, certain provisions of the COFEPOSA Act have been amended through issue of an Ordinance on 13th July, 1984. The main effect of the amendments is to provide for a longer period of detention, in certain cases, of smugglers operating in the highly vulnerable areas, which have been currently identified as the West Coast, the South Eastern Coast, the India-Pakistan border and the Delhi airport. The maximum period of detention in such cases will be two years instead of the normal period of one year.

(e) Smuggling, being a clandestine operation, by its very nature does not lend itself to any estimation.

(f) No, Sir.

Taking over of sick/closed textile Mills in Gujarat

295. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat and various other trade union organisations for the taking over/reopening of closed and sick textile mills in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have constituted a Group of Officers to go into the problems of sick/closed mills in Gujarat with the objective of preparing rehabilitation packages in respect of those that can be made viable, within a short period. On the recommendations of the group, packages of rehabilitation have been formulated for some of these mills.

Raids conducted by the various agencies of the Ministry of Finance in Gujarat and Maharashtra

296. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of raids were conducted by the agencies of his Ministry in various parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra during 1st January, 1984 to 10th July, 1984 on the premises of industrialists, traders and leading persons in film industry etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the goods seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Income-tax Department conducted 559 searches in various parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra during 1st January, 1984 to 10th July, 1984 and seized *prima facie* unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 2.23 crores approximately.

Having regard to large number of searches, it is not practicable to give details of each case. However, if the Hon'ble M.P. desires information about any particular case, the same can be furnished. Information pertaining to other Departments of Ministry is not readily available, and is being collected.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

297. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities have risen

enormously during the last six months, and if so, what was the increase month-wise upto the period ending 30th June, 1984;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices of all the items of daily use have considerably increased during the last one year adversely affecting the poor and common people of the country; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to contain the prices of essential commodities of daily use?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As the attached statement shows, prices of various essential articles have fluctuated from month to month. [*See* Appendix CXXXI, Annexure No. 4].

(c) The price situation is kept under constant review, and from time to time steps have been taken, both on the demand and supply side, to contain inflation. These include, *inter alia*, strengthening of the public distribution system, larger releases of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system.

तस्करों के परिसरों पर छापे

298. **श्री विश्व गोस्वामी :**

श्री सुशील चन्द्र मजुन्त :

डा० शांति गों० पटेल

डा० बापू कालदाते :

श्री इन्द्रदीप सिंह :

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन तस्करों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके परिसरों पर जून और 20 जुलाई, 1984 के मध्य छापे मारे गये थे, कितने तस्करों को गिरफ्तार किया गया छापों के दौरान जब्त की गई नकदी और जवाहरात आदि की कुल मात्रा क्या है तथा कितने तस्करों के विरुद्ध न्यायालयों में मुकदमें चलाये गये हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार तस्कर-व्यापार क्रियाकलापों को रोकने के लिए कठोर उपाय करने के लिए संसद के समक्ष कोई विधेयक लाने का विचार रखती है ; यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इस संबंध में नियमों तथा कानूनों में त्रुटियों की वजह से मार्च, 1984 में हाजी मस्तान को उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा छोड़ दिया गया था ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० एस० कृष्णा) : (क) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन-पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

(ख) सरकार का विचार संसद के चालू सत्र के दौरान एक विधेयक पेश करने का है, जो 13 जुलाई, 1984 को प्रख्यापित अध्यादेश का स्थान लेगा, जिसके द्वारा विदेशी मुद्रा संरक्षण और तस्करी-निवारण अधिनियम, 1974 के कतिपय उपबन्धों में संशोधन किया गया है ।

(ग) सम्भावतया माननीय सदस्य, भारत संघ द्वारा श्री हाजी मस्तान मिर्जा के खिलाफ दायर की गई दाण्डिक अपील में उच्चतम न्यायालय के दिनांक 23 फरवरी, 1984 के निर्णय का उल्लेख कर रहे हैं ।

तस्कर और विदेशी मुद्रा छलसाधक (सम्पत्ति समपहरण) अधिनियम, 1976 की धारा 6 (1) के तहत श्री हाजी मस्तान मिर्जा को जारी किए गये एक नोटिस के तथा धारा 7 के अधीन जारी किये गये आदेश के खिलाफ श्री हाजी मस्तान मिर्जा द्वारा दायर की गई दाण्डिक